



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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March 6, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: James A. Noyes
Director of Public Works

Fire Chief P. Michael Freeman
Fire Department

LA CRESCENTA COMMUNITY PARKING AND STREET SAFETY ISSUES BOARD MOTION OF AUGUST 27, 2002, SYNOPSIS 41

At your August 27, 2002, meeting, your Board instructed the Director of Public Works, in conjunction with the Fire Chief, to investigate street safety issues related to parking of recreational vehicles within the La Crescenta community and report back in six months. Staff from both Departments have met and conferred and conducted visual surveys of roadway and parking conditions throughout the community. Based on those findings, we submit the following report.

For the safe and efficient movement of fire apparatus on a roadway, a minimum of ten feet of clear roadway width is required on straight portions of the road and somewhat more where turns are required. The vast majority of roadways in the La Crescenta area are 30 feet or more in width. Those streets having curbs are generally at least 36 feet wide. Even with parking permitted on both sides of the roadways, we found sufficient clear roadway width is available for safe passage of fire apparatus.

Some streets in the upper canyon portions of La Crescenta north of Briggs Avenue at Rockdell Street are 20 feet wide or less. In most cases, these roadways have graded shoulder areas adjacent to the paved road on which vehicles can be parked without impeding traffic flow. Where off-roadway parking is not provided, vehicles were seldom found parked on the pavement affecting the movement of traffic. Future consideration can be given to establishing parking prohibitions on one side of such roadways as the need arises. Such measures would preserve neighborhood parking needs, as well as emergency access

requirements. At this time, there are no specific locations identified where such parking restrictions are needed. Public Works will continue to monitor this area and solicit input from the local fire station personnel to propose parking restrictions in the event parking practices develop that consistently or potentially inhibit emergency access.

As part of our observations, we found approximately 40 residences in the La Crescenta community where recreational vehicles were parked either in the front driveway, on a special pad in the front yard setback, or on the street or shoulder in front of the home. In none of these observed cases were the recreational vehicles extending into the roadway significantly more than other standard vehicles in the vicinity. It did appear, however, that some vehicles, both RVs and others, are parked for extended periods of time, possibly exceeding the maximum 72-hour time limit established by County Code Section 15.64.200. While the Sheriff has the authority to tow vehicles from the roadway that are parked longer than 72 hours, we are advised that this action is usually only taken upon reported complaints by a citizen and appropriate verification by Sheriff's personnel. Public Works recommends that this procedure continue except in cases where the vehicle may impede traffic flow.

Consequently, it is the finding of this review that recreational vehicle parking in the La Crescenta community, as in other communities in the County, is not creating a significant impediment to the movement and access of emergency fire apparatus. Existing provisions of the County Code should, if vigorously and consistently enforced, discourage long-term storage of inoperable or seldom-used vehicles on streets within the community. Public Works is prepared to recommend parking prohibitions of any vehicles at locations that in the future are found to have a negative impact on access and public safety. However, no such action is recommended at this time.

If you have any questions regarding this review, please call me or have your staff contact my Deputy, Tom Alexander, at (626) 458-4012.

JPA:rj

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cc: Supervisor Gloria Molina (Nicole Englund, Carrie Sutkin)
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke (Mike Bohlke, Chuck Bookhammer)
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavski (Maria Chong-Castillo)
Supervisor Don Knabe (Fred Guido, Curt Pedersen)
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